

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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**CHP CONDUCTS PREDAWN SWEEP OF FARM LABOR VEHICLES**

**SACRAMENTO – The California Highway Patrol (CHP) sent out teams of officers in the early morning hours today, stopping 118 vehicles carrying farm workers in a statewide sweep to ensure safety for agricultural laborers.**

**CHP officers and motor vehicle inspectors pulled 36 vehicles out of service with serious safety violations.**

**“Farm workers deserve a safe trip to and from work,” said CHP Commissioner D. O. Helmick. “Even one more crash of a farm labor vehicle is unacceptable.”**

**Thirteen people were killed August 9 in a farm labor vehicle crash west of Fresno when the van hit a truck/trailer rig.**

**The CHP strike forces checked vehicles carrying farm workers to determine if the vehicles were mechanically safe and properly certified and if drivers were licensed and trained.**

**The strike forces found 221 violations. Among them were: 20 unregistered vehicles; 29 vehicles with defective lights; five vehicles with defective tires and wheels; seven vehicles with defective brakes; 70 other equipment violations and 90 violations for lack of driver’s license or farm labor vehicle driver’s certificate and medical card.**

**“We intend to keep the pressure on to make sure all vehicles carrying farm workers are safe,” Helmick said.**

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